

**Alliance for Vulnerable Mission Bulletin**  
**June 2011**

**2012 Conference announcement**

**2012 Vulnerable Mission conference to be held at Abilene Christian University, Texas, March 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.** (Satellite conference, Cliff College, Derbyshire, UK, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2012). See the call for papers and the call for seminar leaders below. For further details see: [www.vulnerablemission.org](http://www.vulnerablemission.org)

**Conference purpose**

**Global Conference  
on  
Vulnerable Mission**

*Post-colonial mission and development at depth without dependency*

The AVM (Alliance for Vulnerable Mission) sees vulnerability in mission as a good thing. It advocates that the ministry activities of some missionaries or development workers should be economically dependent on those in the country being reached. Also – that some foreigners use the language of the locals instead of the other way around. In one fell swoop, that would get rid of much of the neo-colonial mission practice that is so pervasive today. Please come and join us to pray, think, talk and explore some more . . . .

See *vulnerablemission.org*

**Call for Conference Papers**

Abilene Christian University together with Alliance for Vulnerable Mission are jointly arranging a conference to be held 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at ACU. The convenors of this conference are looking for writers to contribute academic papers, with a view subsequently to incorporating these into a publication that will emerge from the conference.

Papers may be between 3,000 and 8,000 words in length. Formatting should follow the style used by *Missiology* (<http://asmweb.org/current/ASMweb/Style%20Guide%202010.pdf>). Writers will be assessed on the suitability of their papers for presentation at the conference, and then through a blind peer review process for suitability for subsequent publication. Versions of the papers to be presented orally at the conference will need to be adapted to fit into limited presentation time.

Papers to be submitted are expected to focus on the advantages of either use of indigenous languages in mission and development, or the advantages accruing from the use of indigenous resources in mission and development, or both. The following may be submitted:

- Original articles in basic and applied research.
- Case studies.
- Critical reviews, surveys, opinions, commentaries and essays.

Please send proposed papers to [jim@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:jim@vulnerablemission.org)

.....

### **Call for Conference Seminar Leaders**

We will need people to lead some of the seminars / workshops at the 2012 conference. Please let Fiona Adams know ([fiona@vulnerablemission.org](mailto:fiona@vulnerablemission.org)) if you would like to lead one of the sessions. The working-list of titles for the sessions is as follows:

1. Will non-westerners be convinced as to the importance of VM?
  2. Guiding and counselling young VMers and potential VMers.
  3. The linguistics of untranslatability.
  4. Prophetic VM – where will we be in 10 years?
  5. The role of the western university in VM tomorrow.
  6. Encouraging VM in mission agencies.
  7. A biblical case for VM.
  8. Married VMers and families.
  9. ‘God the real Superpower’ (based on Nelson Jennings’ book)
  10. Definition of VM (a select group to look at this definition)
  11. Videos to help us see how majority world people do mission VM style.
  12. VM at the grassroots, in western context where short-term mission dominates
  13. VM in the non-VM context of mission agencies.
- .....

### **New resources for VM – June 2011**

Debates on the linguistic concept of “meaning holism” consider the implications of the fact that having an accurate understanding of words (phrases etc.) in a language, presupposes a total knowledge of all the words in that language. Philosophers have argued how, in the light of this, it can ever be possible to learn a language. If total knowledge of the language would be required in order to learn the meaning of even one word, then where does a learner begin? For answers to this and other puzzles and an introduction to this topic that is of particular pertinence to the use of mother tongues in inter-cultural communication, see an article by Peter Pagin posted at <http://people.su.se/~ppagin/papers/MHolism0507.pdf>

David Ngong in his article *Salvation and Materialism in African Theology* suggests that top scholars on African theology Bediako and Anderson are, in failing to critique certain principles of African Traditional Religion, attempting to legitimise an African Christianity that is led by the desire for material gain rather than the *telos* of the Gospel. See: <http://www.eupublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/E135499010900032X> It seems that it could be easy for western missionaries, with their own habituation to relatively high standards of living, to play into this kind of ‘misleading’ theology.

Please look here <http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/view/585> for a recent article by Jim Harries, now published in *Global Missiology* (<http://www.globalmissiology.org/cms/> Vol 3, No 8 (2011): April). This was one of the key articles used by Jim in his recent tour of seminaries in Europe and North America. It explains how cultural differences affect missionary communication in simple, graphic but also powerful ways by using the different field-sports – soccer and cricket – by way of illustration.

*The Pneuma Review* has just published an article by Jim Harries that outlines a case for vulnerable mission by considering deliverance ministry in an African context. Publishing details are as follows: Harries, Jim, 2011. 'Deliverance Ministry in an African Cultural Perspective.' *The Pneuma Review*. Volume 14, Number 1, Winter 2011, 16-30.

---

Best wishes,  
Jim Harries (PhD)  
Chairman, Alliance for Vulnerable Mission